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Crimpville Comments

Jean Brennan
Chairman

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October-November

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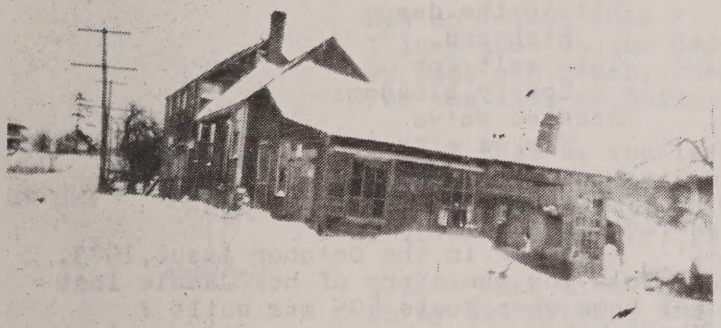
Carroll E. White blacksmith shop.
Early 1900's.



William Grafton White of "Richmond and Way Stations" fame conducted a blacksmithing operation in the section nearest the viewer while his son, Carroll E. White manufactured leather carding cloth in the further section of two stories. Later Carroll E. (son of William) had "Blackie" Moore do the "smithing" for him. See the October 1975 issue of Crimpville Comments for the story by Mrs. B. A. White, author.

Fine steel prongs by the thousands were imbedded in leather for carding wool and cotton. Later these "teeth" were imbedded in canvas cloth which ended the manufacturing here by Carroll E. White. Then he turned to farming and renting out farm equipment to area farmers. He had a large dairy barn supplying milk in quantity.

One day while tarring the roof above a fire started and luckily they were able to extinguish it but not without tragedy for Carroll E. severely burned both hands which swelled to double their size. This frightened young Carroll F. White, (grandson of William) out of his wits but time healed the wounded hands.

Young Carroll F. took over the farm after his father died but the 1938 hurricane ended all that with the destruction of his barns and buildings.

A steam engine was used to power the tools and equipment in the manufacturing of carding cloth. Those were the days before "electricity"came into town. As there was plenty of wood available in those days it was very convenient to use steam engines for power purposes of all sorts so there was no "energy shortage". Maybe we'll have to go back to those old days of independent power again. Some time later we'll have a picture showing a saw mill operation at Hoag Lake with a portable steam powered setup complete with a boiler. Make no mistake about it--steam was a powerful work horse. Remember the old Stanley steamer automobiles and how fast they could go with just a small engine ? And the power they had--WOW ! And wouldn't you know-- Ed Thayer who lived near the Baptist church in the Center--had a "Stanley steamer" to take him to Medway where he was Superintendant of a hat manufacturing plant where ladies bonnets were stitched. Allie Whitney and the Nash girls worked there from the center. However they took the train to Medway at the old depot at "Midland".

"Blackie" Moore taught young Carroll F. the smithing trade. He was a cautious man and would not shoe a horse that kicked without tieing it securely first. However, one day a farmer came in with a known kicker and tried to persuade Carroll that it was O.K. Nothing doing,says Carroll,so the farmer proceeded to show him that it was alright to handle the horse's hoof when, quick as a wink, the horse let go a terrific kick that knocked his hat off. One inch lower and he would have been killed. A well known boy almost became an orphan and it wasn't until just before Carroll's death that the family knew of the near tragedy. Speaking of accidents, Carroll F. relates that as a boy, he and two others were target practice shooting when one of the rifles went off firing a bullet into the leg of one of the boys. Terribly frightened they rushed him up to Dr. Clark near the church where he extracted the bullet and with further treatment sent them all home. Much care was used after that in the handling of guns. Imagine, today, what a hullabaloo that would have generated with our highly advanced Society with the anti-gunners behind every stone wall !

MOTHER'S MEDITATIONS by Jennie Elizabeth Tyndall

IN MEMORY

As the glory of the autumn,
When full grains are bending low,
So God's beauty in its richness
Through his rounded life did grow.

Kindly father and grandfather,
And a friend to all he knew,
He has left behind much kindness
And a fine example too.

Now at evening, in the shadows,
Goes home to his heavenly rest,
Having spent his day in service,
He has gone to join the blest.

But we always shall remember
Loved ones we can never lose;
For their lives oft helped to guide us
In the paths that we shall chose.

TO A BEAN BUG

Little bug how close you cling,
To your green protecting cover.
Would that nature'd given me
All I need beneath each hover.
But, Alas, perhaps like you,
I would chew and chew and chew,
Till spying enemy could see
Through the hole and capture me.

GARDENING

Do wonder why
We so much love
The seeding and
The weeding ?
It seems to be
The kind of rest
Our spirit's most
A needing.
For kneeling there
On Nature's breast
So close you hear
Her heart throb,
We hear the
Babble of the brook,
Bird's song and
Cooing squab.
We place small
Seeds most carefully
Within the deep
Rich sod.
Then wait for
Lovely blossoms
Because we've
Worked with God.

Reflections--

Remember in the October issue,1973, we told you the story of how Jennie lost her home when Route 495 was built ? Through her poems her memory lingers on.

PETERS RIVER

This beautiful little river originates primarily from Hoag Lake, now known as Silver Lake, in Bellingham. Hoag Lake appears as a swamp area on the 1830 map where the Chilson factory was located. However on the 1853 map it shows a pond area due to a dam having been built previously. The "Hoags" lived across the street in the home now owned by Mrs. Levi Smith and, from whom, the Lake was so named. Lakeview pond also feeds into Silver Lake via Crystal Lake. Then Curtis Pond off Mechanic street along with Lily Hole drains into Silver Lake from the North. From the Franklin side a little brook that starts between Bald Hill and Millers Hill flows into where the Crooks had their saw mill and ice house off Lake street and where "Fortins Rock" is located. He was the slave reported to have gone down there to bathe in the morning and say his usual prayers. Then this little brook flows into another,that started up beside Forge Hill near the "Four Corners", just below the junction of Lake and Cross streets and further down near the pumping station it flows into Peters River. Down in Rakeville the Jenks Reservoir water flows into Peters River. Then Bungay Brook fed by Carls Pond in Cumberland and Hales Pond in Wrentham enters the River near the South Pumping station. Near Crooks Corner Arnolds Brook enters the River on its way to Woonsocket where it meanders past Radio Station WNRI and for some distance now widens considerably. The clear water harbors many fish for several miles above,that have been added by the Fish and Game Division of Massachusetts.
An original "Keystone" bridge over Peters River can be seen near the junction of Lake and Pulaski Boulevard streets where the old Franklin road used to go.

-°

We are pleased to introduce you to a new "Crimpville Comments" with this issue and we hope that it will meet with your approval as it has done for the past seven and one-half years. We are going to a bi-monthly plan of presenting its contents with the sixteen pages now available through a change in printing methods. We are most happy to introduce you to our new printer, Mr. Daniel Weston of Weston Graphics, Inc. at 29 Pearl street in Caryville; an important section in Bellingham. He has generously designed our new headings for which we are very proud. We are very grateful for the seven years of service by the students of the Blackstone Valley Regional Vocational Technical High School and the Instructors, Mr. Lester Shea and Mr. Robert Bouchard.

FOR YOUNG AND OLD LOVERS--only !

The only one who has ever been able to express in words the far reaching meaning that answers the delicate question of "How do I love thee ?" was Elizabeth Barrett Browning (1806-1861). Her affection for her one and only went beyond the veil of birth, life and death into the great timeless space of eternity. Her ability to project her concept beyond the past, present and future had a charm and beauty distinctly all her own that has touched the souls who have ventured into her realm and who have savored the magnificence of her vision in words. For you who have tasted of this thought food long ago, may you now be refreshed and renewed with a revived thrill as your memory lights another candle to chase away the gloom and darkness of the present. To you who have not had the joy of reading her words of love before, we invite you to spend the time in concentrating on and drinking in each thought and meaning to absorb the timeless message of love that she has prepared and shares with you. Rest assured that the experience will stay with and be a part of you forever. Do not glance over it quickly or take it lightly. It is an inspiring poem for everyone.

To Elizabeth Barrett Browning--we express our gratitude.

"HOW DO I LOVE THEE ?"

How do I love thee ? Let me count the ways.
I love thee to the depth and breadth and height
My soul can reach, when feeling out of sight
For the ends of Being and ideal Grace.

I love thee to the level of everyday's
Most quiet need by sun and candle-light.
I love thee freely as men strive for Right;
I love thee purely, as they turn from Praise.

I love thee with the passion put to use
In my old griefs, and with my childhood's faith.
I love thee with a love I seemed to lose
With my lost saints,--I love thee with the breath,
Smiles, tears, of all my life !--and, if God choose,
I shall but love thee better after death.

HUNTING SPOOKS

Photos courtesy of Laura Drown

Identities by

Bertrand Z. Remillard
Rosamond Staples
and
Phyllis Rhodes

Grade 6

South Bellingham

for 1930-'31

Teacher Rose Cassidy

1 Rainey
2 Winifred Bishop
3 Yvonne Ricard
5 Constance Farley
6 Loretta Rainey
7 Archambault
11 Meridith Mellor
12 Bella Trudel
13 Gertrude Chandler
14 Stasia Symanski
15 Pauline Alexander
17 Roland Champagne
18 Victor Skalybinski
19 Chester Struzik
20 Leo Marchand
21 Alfred Sweck
22 Leo Levesque
23 Emile Ratti
24 Howard Staples
25 Arminio Cubellis
26 Leroy Scott
27 Edward Starzak
28 James Christiansen
29 Henry Gingras
30 Willard Rhodes
31 Charles Marchand
33 Lionel Leblanc
34 Albert Prefontaine
36 George Cartier
37 Julien Gingras

THE CHILDREN'S GRACE

WE THANK Thee, God,
For daily food.
Bless it. Bless us
And make us good.
—Anna Bird Stewart.

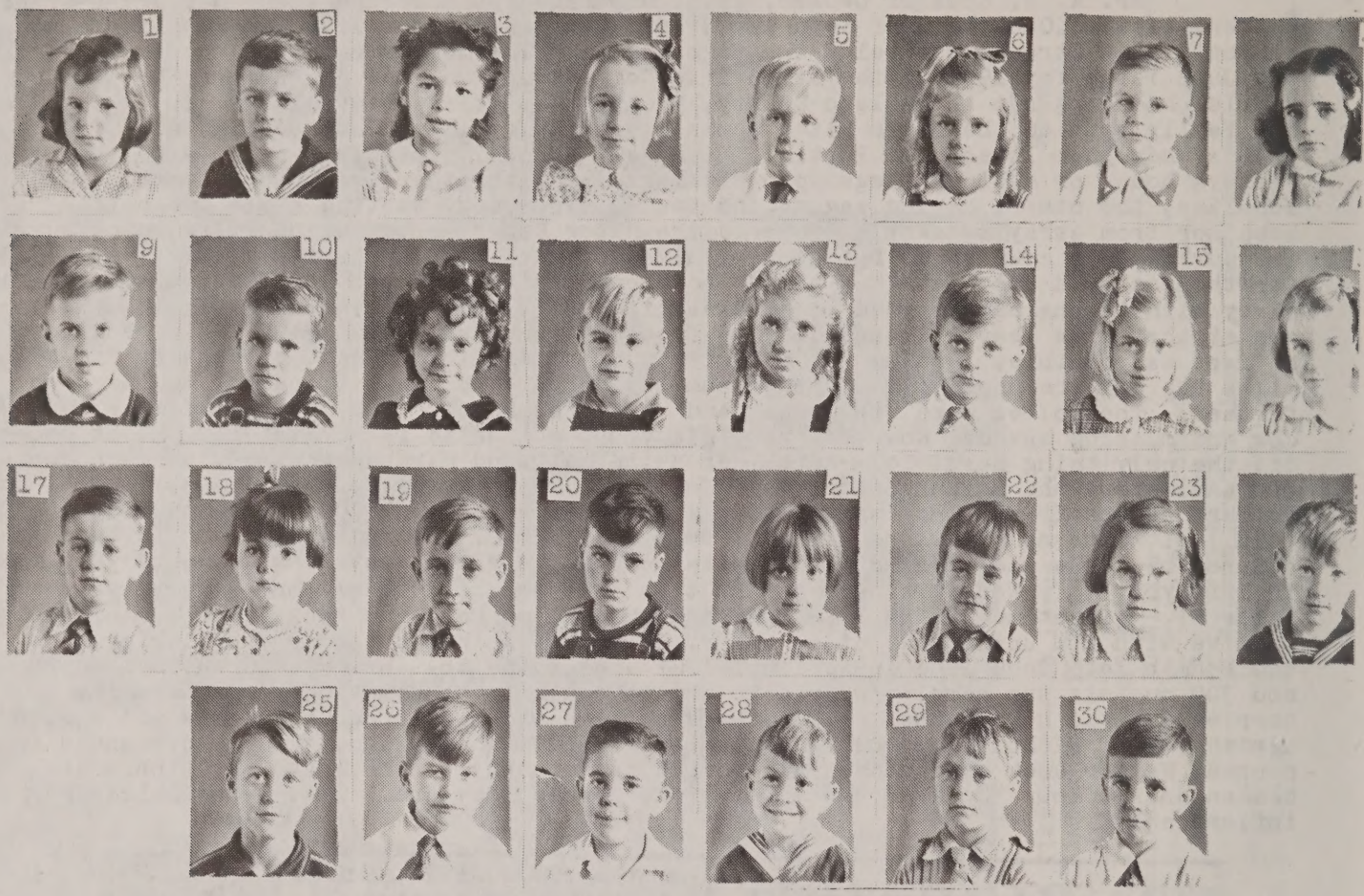
BACHELOR

THERE was a young farmer named Frankie;
He was tight, he was mean, he was cranky.
He drove to the fair
On a gallon of air
And all he blew in was his hanky.
—F. A. MATHEWS, JR.

Hard Labor

Mr. A. B. Cook of Owosso, Michigan shares an anecdote about his Great-Grand Father, Ezekiel Cook, son of Seth and Urania Cook that later lived in the little house on South Main Street just below the High School. The home appears on the 1830 map. See the June issue for 1974 of the Crimpville Comments. They had a cranberry bog there. Ezekiel had gone out to Oakland County, Michigan sometime before 1822. In 1837 he and his family settled the Maple River Community, Michigan. This story happened in the 1820's when they lived near Pontiac, Michigan. Quote, "The first year, after having built a house or cabin of logs upon his farm, he with others went to Detroit for supplies, the others having wagons and teams. Mr. Cook, wanting a cow and calf - to keep her from straying away - went to the River Rouge, about eight miles below Detroit and purchased a cow and calf that was only a day or two old, paying, I believe, $12.00 for them (a good price at that time) and upon driving them back to Detroit, found the party with wagons had started back, expecting that he might overtake them. The road was at that time nearly impassable, in fact one continuous mud hole. Following on as fast as possible, leading the cow with the calf following, after three or four miles the calf refused to go further and lay down. The cow, of course, would go no further. The wolves were everywhere and still ferocious. The calf would make another cow and must be saved. Now what was this young energetic farmer to do ? He at once did the only thing possible - shouldered the calf and marched forward, through the mud and water, the mother of the calf following, thus saving the proceeds of his last dollar, or nearly so. How many of our young farmers of today could or would do it ? (1884)--I write no fable, nor could I tell the half of the privations and sufferings endured by those who cleared the forests to found our pleasant homes. Guard well what is left you." Would we dare to ask this same question nearly one hundred years later ?! Sometime in the late 1830's Ezekiel came East and took his parents back to live with him until they died. A Mr. S. Bates exhibited the cranberries grown on the former Seth Cook land in April of 1842 and stated that his yield was between 200 and 300 bushels per acre! No reason why it couldn't be done today and have the berries for the home economics classes.? The above mentioned Cooks were all direct descendants of Nicholas and Deacon Nicholas of Bellingham, who,in turn, descended from pioneer Walter Cook of Mendon. All across the country to the West Coast there are descendants of our "Cook's" and mighty fine people they are. That's the Bellingham influence !

Over thirty years ago--yet it seems like yesterday ! What happened ?



South Bellingham Grade 1 1943-'44 Pearl A. Cote Teacher

1. Mary Rattie
2. David Simmons
3. Elizabeth Romanski
4. Brenda Worrall
5. Robert Copeland
6. Lorraine Gosselin
7. Ronald Tetreault
8. Claire Rattie
9. Raymond Marcet
10. Wilfred Remillard
11. Delores Robedoux
12. Richard Gallant
13. Muriel Chamberland
14. Richard Lizotte
15. Shirley Terhan
16. Pauline Gagnon
17. Albert Paulhus
18. Lucille Provencial
19. Charles Beauregard
20. Arthur Belanger
21. Claudette Lemire
22. Leonard Guerin
23. Helen Menard
24. Leo De Ragon
25. Aram Archambeault
26. John Rhodes
27. Eugene Fleury
28. Robert Picard
29. Edmund Johnson
30. Noe Busson

Missing pictures of pupils

Claire Beauregard
George Racine
David Guerin
Carmen Giardino
Robert Purich
Donald Houle

Courtesy Robert Copeland

Read 'Em and Weep

BEST PROMISE OF ALL

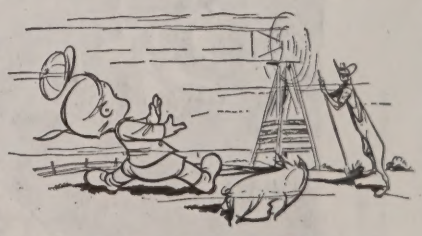
PROMISES made
By campaigning boasters,
Might well include
The removal of posters.

ADDENDUM

On page 6 of issue #68 the identity of the picture should be Chief James and Emma("Gram") Spencer.

We are indebted to Florence Kingsbury of Holliston for the photograph. She is the widow of Edward Leon Spencer, first to die in World War I. from Bellingham.

OUR CITY COUSIN



Cries Our City Cousin to the hired man, "Please turn off that big electric fan!"

COUNTRY GENTLEMAN

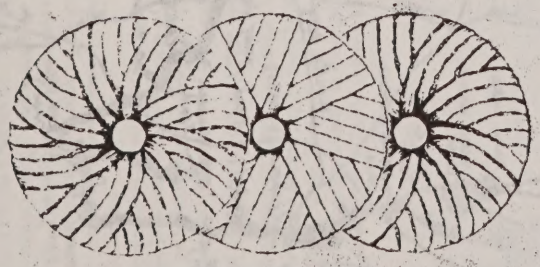
Charles River Dams

We are now able to present more information on our ponds and dams through the good fortune of becoming acquainted with the Charles River Watershed Association and their thorough researcher, Thelma Fleishman, and from their Executive Director, Rita Barron, who have most generously granted us permission to use the following excerpts from the brochure that they have for sale. Many mysteries are now solved for us and the ability of Thelma Fleishman to unearth these facts merit our eternal gratitude. Knowing how and where to "dig" these facts up requires expert training and persistence.
Much of this will be new to even "oldtimers" who have lived in the early times when we had the "Red Mill","Box Pond" and the delightful tale of the "Bellingham Navy Yard." We are also pleased to be able to have part of their research appear in our "Comments". Welcome aboard, friends, to our pages of local history.

The 20 dams now spanning the river illustrate the point; almost all are the legacy of the days when providing power for a variety of mills and factories was the river's primary purpose — one for which it was ill fitted and which it fulfilled indifferently.

The Indians took fish from the river and used it as a waterway. Recognizing its chief characteristic they called it "Quinobequin" — "meandering" — a name which aptly reflects the curves, oxbows, and s-bends it describes as it makes its way from Hopkinton to the sea.

Because it was there and they needed it, the settlers used the Charles for power and it accommodated their modest demands with ease. However, the industrial expansion of the 19th century led to so great an increase in the number of mills that the dams built to serve them transformed the river into a series of almost stagnant mill-ponds. This, with the Mother Brook diversion and the land-filling operations associated with the mill-dams of Boston, constituted an interference with the river's eco-system for which we are now paying the price. No one "improves" upon nature with impunity. Making good the damage done over so many years is a long and expensive process presenting many problems, some of which still await solution.



Early Photographs from the Collection of the Jackson Homestead, Newton.

Charles River Dams is a publication of the Charles River Watershed Association, Inc.

Researched and written by Thelma Fleishman.

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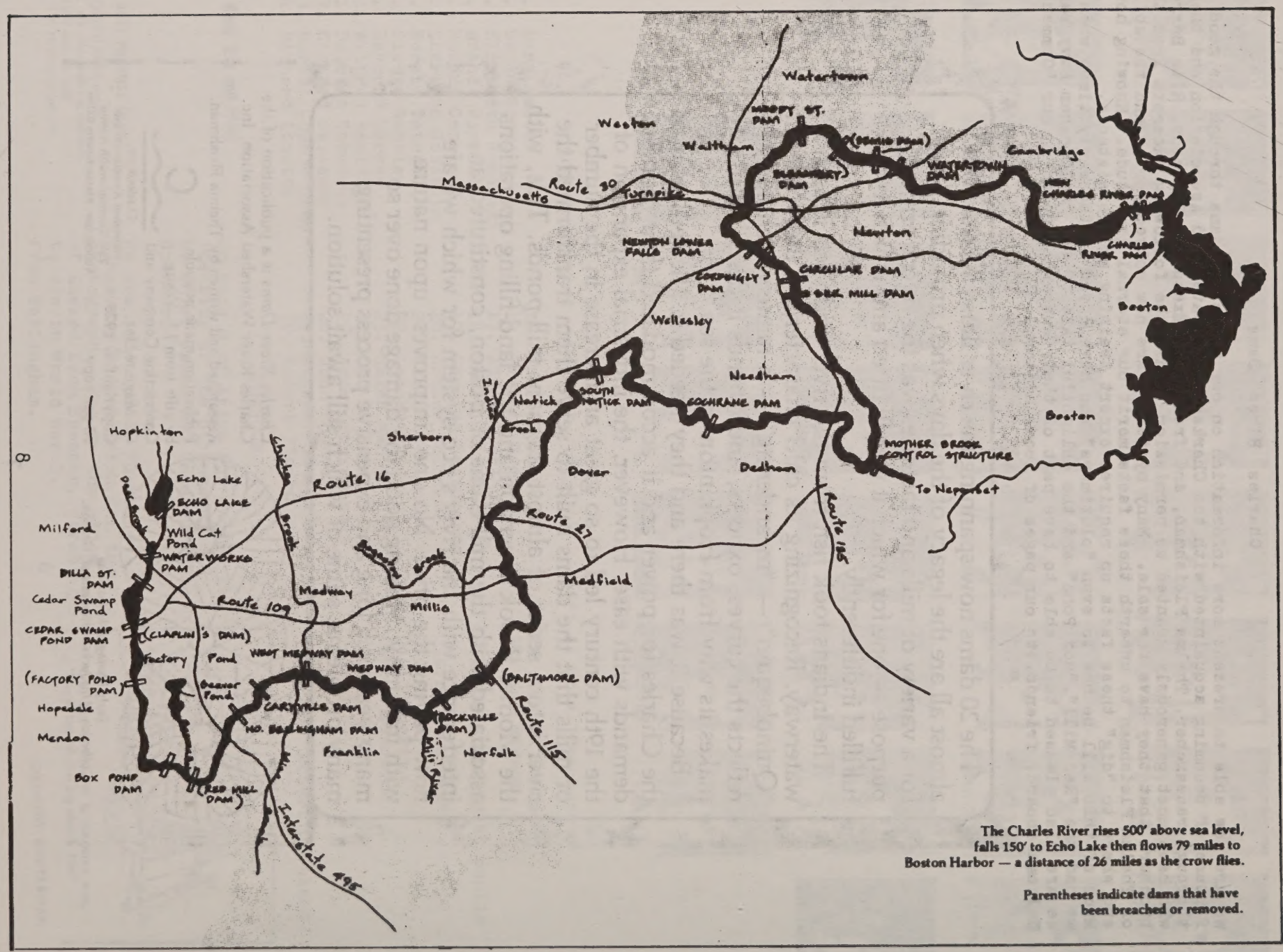
$2 per copy

Charles River Watershed Association, Inc.
2391 Commonwealth Avenue
Auburndale, Massachusetts 02166



The Charles River rises 500' above sea level, falls 150' to Echo Lake then flows 79 miles to Boston Harbor — a distance of 26 miles as the crow flies.

Parentheses indicate dams that have been breached or removed.

The Dams

Excluding the Charles River Dam — both old and new — and including the Mother Brook control structure, there are now nineteen dams on the Charles River; the breached remains of four others are still visible and five have disappeared completely. The amount of accessible information on each varies considerably, and although a great deal has been assembled, much has proved elusive. There are many sources still to be tapped.

The following accounts do not pretend to be complete. Events have been selected because they are of local interest or significance, or to show that nothing on the river can be truly local — everything is connected with everything else.

THE DAMS OF THE MILFORD WATER WORKS

1881: The Milford Water Company incorporated (Ch 77.) Contracted with Moses Joy to supply Milford with water. With Charles Shippee, Joy bought land and acquired flowage easements in Hopkinton and Milford and proceeded to "build the works."

Echo Lake Dam, c. 1916

Echo Lake Dam. A 22 foot high stone dam, curved to withstand pressure, was constructed on a ledge outcrop at the lower end of a meadow, impounding the streams flowing into it. At that time the source of the Charles was a matter for debate, and the plan filed at the Worcester County Registry of Deeds shows Deer Brook emerging from the Lake. This name is now given to the tributary that flows into the river downstream at Wild Cat Pond and it is officially accepted that it is the main stem of the river that issues from Echo Lake. Additional land was taken to protect the area draining into the Lake, and, construction completed, all the land covered with water, the pipes, and pumping station were conveyed to the Company.

1884: The Company started operating.

1900: Dry summer caused water shortage.

1902: Crest of dam raised 10 feet (elevation now 350). Engineers were able to use the old structure which was well bonded into the ledge at the base and sides. Before the new masonry was added to the old, serious consideration was given to the possibility of bursting pressure due to the practical impossibility of obtaining a perfect bond. Capacity was increased by two thirds.

The Water Works Dam. Also known as Wild Cat after the pond it impounds. The only site of the three where a dam existed previously.

1844: John Mason sold six acres with a barn and saw mill to John Corbett.

1849: John Corbett sold six acres with saw and corn mills to Dominic McDavit.

1870: When Mary McDavit sold it the saw mill was still there.

1885: The Company bought the property, removed the mill and constructed the receiving basin to which the water is conducted from Echo Lake.

1914: Wasteway and bulkheads rebuilt and heavy plank gates put in.

1918: Dam still of dry stone backed with earth.

c. 1950: Stone spillway abutments refaced with concrete and timbers replaced.

Dilla Street Dam. From the receiving basin the water flows about half a mile to the pumping station at Dilla Street where a small concrete and granite dam forms a pool from which the water is drawn into the filters and wells before being pumped to Milford and Hopedale.

1881: Original dam built.

1910: Replaced by the present structure.

CEDAR SWAMP POND DAM

1700s: A dam was probably built early in the century to create the pond, through there appears to be no positive record of this.

1794: Map of Milford shows grist and fulling mills, probably those of Nathaniel Parkhurst.

1830: Map shows woolen mill, cotton mill, and saw mill that belonged to Parkhurst's sons, Stephen and Parmenas, who owned the Parkhurst Manufacturing Company, which ran into financial difficulties and was bought by John Claflin.

1870: Map shows Pond, and a small mill pond a short distance downstream. This was built by Aaron and Horace Claflin for a grist mill. From then on Cedar Swamp Pond appears to have served as a reservoir for the smaller pond, and the deeds make no mention of a dam or water rights associated with the Pond itself.

1923: No dam at the outlet to Cedar Swamp Pond other than the highway, under which there were two 4'x8' wooden sluice gates to control the flow to the pond below.

1938: The sluice gates evidently in disrepair as timber and "other obstructions" were used to maintain the water level. As these could not be readily manipulated they contributed to the flooding and the County Engineers recommended their complete removal and the construction of a new dam further upstream.

The present earth and concrete dam was built upstream of the highway at the outlet of the pond. The old sluice gates remain permanently open.

1958: Further work done downstream: small pond drained, river culverted.

THE DAMS OF BELLINGHAM AND MEDWAY.

The river drops about 100 feet in the 14 miles between South Milford and Baltimore Street in Millis. There are now five dams on that section of the river. In the 19th century there were 12. With one exception there was a textile or textile-related mill at each, and ownership was largely in the hands of a few families. Some names that will recur are:

Whiting: The original Nathaniel owned the first mill on Mother Brook; his son, John, settled in Wrentham, bought land in Medway where his son, Nathaniel, built the Medway Dam. One of his granddaughters married *Philo Sanford* (a principal in the Medway Cotton Manufacturing Company); their son, Sewal, started a thread mill, run briefly by his son, Milton, who later financed the Sanford Mills and is remembered by Sanford Hall; another granddaughter married *Luther Metcalf* whose family had been in the area for many years and who, with their son, Luther, and son-in-law manufactured cotton machinery at West Medway. Luther, Jr., was the secretary of the Medway Cotton Manufacturing Company for many years. *William Cary* who married the daughter of *George Barber* of Bellingham and Medway, had interests in Caryville, Medway Village, and Rockville, where *Comfort Walker* and his son George ran mills for years. The *Wilsons* had interests in Medway from the 1830s, and after the Civil War owned all the privileges in the Village below the Medway Dam. The *Rays:* Joseph was a Franklin stone mason who built the first stone mill in Bellingham in 1810. Later, with his brother-in-law Rila Scott, a "cotton spinner," he became involved in the cotton business with such success that by the end of the Civil War his sons, Francis B. (who retired in 1867), Joseph G., and James P. had an interest in every mill in Bellingham and most of those in Medway. The last Ray interest was liquidated early in this century.

The dams are:

Factory Pond on the Milford-Bellingham line which was built about 1812 and is now breached.

Box Pond Dam, c. 1916

Box Pond Dam.

1821: Laban Bates granted John Corbett the right to flow his land by erecting a dam "where the old saw mill dam was ..." — the crest to be level with a rock about eight feet upstream. The dam seems not to have been built.

1821: Thompson Thayer built a dam and saw and grist mills.

1832: Thayer sold to Dwight Colburn who provided the mills with iron wheels and the necessary gearings, and in

1834: leased them to Henry Lillie.

1844: Colburn sold to William Thompson 3½ acres with a saw mill and mechanics shop, and Thompson must have built the box board mill because in

1854 it was there when he sold to Carlile Capon, and still there in

1859 when the level of the dam was raised, but in

1863 when the Rays bought the property only the saw and grist mills are mentioned.

1869: The Rays raised the level of the dam and bought extensive flowage rights (though not enough, it would seem, as a suit was brought against them for spoiling land in Mendon and near the Town line) to create what is substantially the Box Pond of today. It is interesting to speculate why they did so, as there is no mention in any subsequent deed of any activity other than that of the saw and grist mills.

The Red Mill Dam. Although this has been breached it warrants a mention as events there are closely bound up with those at both Box Pond and North Bellingham Dams. Its history is often confused with that of the former.

1800: David Jones bought the right to raise a pond for "carrying a saw mill and a grist mill."

1832: His daughter, Mary, married to Simeon Barney, sold the property to Henry Lillie who sold it to Dwight Colburn (from whom he rented Box Pond).

The Red Mill after the dam was breached

1841: Colburn sold to Varnum Bates and Noah Arnold (owners of North Bellingham) and granted them the right (which he had been able to exercise while he owned both privileges) to raise the height of the dam with no liability for any damage to the upstream water privilege (Box Pond) which he (Colburn) still owned.

1860: Known as the Bates and Arnold Upper Privilege it was sold to Newell and Daniels and then to the Rays.

1867: The Rays, who owned both privileges, re-affirmed that the water that entered the river from the Beaver Pond Reservoir would flow freely at all times to the privilege below.

1909: Mill burnt.

1927: Dam breached in a flood.

North Bellingham Dam.

1810: Joseph Ray built the first stone mill, so presumably the dam was built at approximately the same time. The mill was owned by a group headed by Dr. Nathaniel Miller and was later known as the Bellingham Cotton Manufacturing Company.

1817: The Company sold part of its land to Pelatiah Smith, but reserved the right to flow as much of it as would be "needful for the cotton factory mill."

1820: Factory bought by Joseph Ray and Rila Scott. Many owners followed, including Stephen Benedict and Joseph Wood who owned one third of the water of Beaver Pond Reservoir (see page 6).

1839: Bought by Bates and Arnold.

1843: They raised the height of the dam and in

1844 a case was brought against them by Henry Howard who claimed compensation for the additional land that was flowed. The case was decided in their favor as they still had the rights reserved to the owners in the deed to Pelatiah Smith.

1860: Bates and Arnold Lower Privilege sold to Newell and Daniels.

1864: Sold to the Rays with one third of the water of Beaver Pond Reservoir.

1882: Ray Woolen Company built the second granite mill — made satinet cloth.

1890: To Charles River Woolen Company.

1912: Belonged to the Bellingham Woolen Company who had two steam boilers and electric current.

1961: To Thomas Pontolilo, the present owners ... the "Bellingham Mill Estate" and the right to one third of the waters of Beaver Pond Reservoir.

Caryville Dam.

c. 1735: Dam erected by John Metcalf with a saw mill on one side of the river and a grist mill on the other. After his death his grandson, Stephen, bought up all the shares in the property, and in

1800 sold it to his son-in-law, Joseph Fairbanks (the great-grandson of the first settler in Bogastow).

1813: Fairbanks and others formed a Manufacturing Company for spinning cotton and making machinery. He granted the company the right to take water from his pond. A stone cotton factory was built and Fairbanks moved his grist mill into a corner on the first floor.

The Company paid half the expense of maintaining the dam, Fairbanks the other half. He and Stephen Metcalf maintained another, wooden, dam to control the water in the flume which supplied the saw mill and trip hammer shop on the other bank.

1828: Factory burnt. Bought by Alexander Wright and Royal Southwick.

1830: William White bought it with the first right to sufficient water to drive 600 spindles, and looms, and other appliances for making cotton.

1832: Bellingham Cotton Manufacturing Company incorporated with the first right to the water for 600 cotton spindles. Fairbanks reserved the right to take water from the pond for his cattle.

1839: The Company ran into trouble and was bought by George Barber (William White's father-in-law).

1848: George Barber sold the factory and stone dam to William Cary (his daughter Harriet's second husband). Cary bought the trip hammer shop and saw mill too, but not until

1862 would Jonas Fairbanks (Joseph's son) part with the grist mill and the wooden dam. At this time Cary owned and managed more properties than anyone else in the area, but in

1864, depressed by the Civil War, he sold to the Rays and moved to Rockville. The Rays raised the height of the dam.

1866: A new Post Office was opened and named after Cary in recognition of his services to the community.

1867: Privilege bought by Moses Taft who at one time ran the mill in conjunction with others at Factory Pond.

1899: There were three steam boilers and one waterwheel capable of generating 75 horsepower.

1919: 500 horsepower electric generator installed.

c. 1960: Present dam built.

West Medway Dam, c. 1916

West Medway.

1700s: May have been a saw mill there — possibly owned by Eleazer and Moses Thompson.

c. 1800: May have been operated by Joel Hunt.

1812: Hunt, his father-in-law, Luther Metcalf, and brother-in-law, Luther, Jr., built a factory for making cotton and woolen machinery (one of their customers was the Boston Manufacturing Company). The millpond, which reached as far as a hole in a rock on the south side of the river, covered land owned by the proprietors, and they used the water that wasted over the dam to irrigate their fields.

1828: They increased the height of the dam. Acquired the right to raise the pond to a level marked by a hole 20 rods upstream in the winter, but in the summer had to let it fall till it reached a lower hole. Also bought the privilege of flowing, at all times, as much land in Franklin, both on Charles River and up Mine Brook, as was necessary to provide power for the mill.

1844: Mill burnt. Many owners followed, including Hurd and Daniels of Medway Village, all of whom had access to Hunt's land to take gravel for repairing the dam, until in

1854: the privilege was acquired by Thomas and George Campbell who started a paper mill which they ran for 20 years.

1880s: The saw and grist mills ceased to operate.

c. 1893: Paper mill burnt.

The privilege has not been used since.

The Medway Dam.

1706: John Whiting (of Wrentham) bought land on both sides of the river.

1711: His son, Nathaniel, built the first dam and a grist mill on the Medfield side (Medway incorporated 1713). The dam served as the bridge to Franklin — there was no other.

1805: Luther Metcalf and Philo Sanford having inherited the privilege through their wives, sold shares in the water rights to Comfort Walker (of Rockville), Nathaniel Miller (of Bellingham), William Feltt (who came from Dedham), and others. They combined to establish a mill for the carding, spinning, and manufacturing of cotton which had the first right to sufficient water to drive a wheel 18 feet in diameter.

1807: The Medway Cotton Manufacturing Company incorporated — the first such company in Massachusetts.

1811: Mill burnt and replaced by the White Mill. Company managed by Luther Metcalf, Jr.

1864: Financial difficulties. Bought by the Rays.

1867: Dam washed away and rebuilt.

Many owners followed including James B. and E. C. Wilson, but none was able to make it pay until in

1881, at the request of the Town, Philo Sanford's grandson, Milton, came to the rescue and helped finance the Sanford Mills. The grist mill and the White Mill were pulled down and replaced by the building that now houses the Reardon Industrial Park.

c. 1929: Concrete dam replaced the old earth one.

Below the Medway Dam there were three others. They have gone but an intricate system of canals, once the raceways, flumes and wasteways of the now vanished mills, testifies to past activities here. Not a drop of water was wasted. Before any new mill or factory could be established elaborate agreements were recorded, usually restating the order of precedence to the water and specifying how much could be drawn from where.

The **Upper Privilege** was the first to be occupied.

c. 1770: Samuel Bullen operated a fulling mill, but probably without a dam.

c. 1813: William Feltt and others (Cary, Barber, Walker, etc.) built a dam and the Yellow (cotton) Mill.

(Sewall Sanford was permitted a flume 12 feet square for a thread mill, and George Barber (wood carding) and Comfort Walker (turning works) also shared this privilege).

1837: Yellow Mill bought by Cary.

1832: The owners of the Yellow Mill built a dam at the **Middle Privilege** about a quarter of a mile downstream for another cotton mill.

1837: Washed away.

1838: Rebuilt by new owners, Julius Hurd and Alfred Daniels, somewhat downstream and with a higher crest. This caused the water to back up to Cary's mill and led to litigation.

c. 1821: A bleachery was started at the **Third Privilege** by Duncan Wright. (He came from the Waltham Bleachery.) This was also bought by Feltt and converted into a mill for making yarn.

Read 'Em and Weep

SO DO WE

I WANT to contact a man that has a truck that can do landscape work.

There is a wealth of information on the Charles River in their booklet "Charles River Dams" by the Association that we have not used herein. There are 28 pages covering the full flow of the Charles from Hopkinton to Boston Harbor. Many pictures and illustrations show very clearly the story of this famous "Quinobequin" River. We like her description of the River and her translation of the Indian name to "meandering" as befitting its journey to the sea. Previously we had it translated it as "the long winding River" or "the long snake River".

Many little brooks and streams feed in to it to swell it into a mighty river on its way to Boston and sea level. Our Beaver Pond adds some water also. The "meandering" from North to South, then East and North again, then East and North to finally swing East again makes it a most unusual wanderer. How kind it was to flow as it did instead of going directly East from Hopkinton to the Harbor. We are grateful to Mother Nature for bringing this charming river through our town. Maybe in the near future it can be called upon to once again serve us with energy. There is a tremendous potential there. May we recommend that you purchase the booklet so that you can share in the careful and able research that Thelma Fleishman performed for us and all of those along the "CHARLES".

To the Association--thank you very much for allowing us to answer the many questions that folks have asked over the years.

This looks like the Charles River somewhere in North Bellingham. Got any idea as to the street bridge ?

Fairbanks was a well known name in Bellingham. This view is prior to 1905.

Old Fairbanks Mansion, Dedham, Mass.

Published by The Metropolitan News Co., Boston.

These postcards are from the Maud Grant collection donated to the Bellingham Historical Commission by Mr.& Mrs. V.N.Voss of Tacoma, Washington. 1979

If you have any old pictures or postcards please lend them to us so that we can share them with our fans.

The old Pelatiah Smith Tavern. Early 1900's.

Hartford Avenue looking toward the cemetery. In a Westerly direction. Old gravel road had been neatly scraped and contoured. Note the many picket fences lining the road.

AS HIS NAME IS, SO IS HE.

William H. Davenport

In Bellingham and Mendon are a goodly group of folks,
And their names we can depend on, for they were not given as jokes;
But there is one thing quite certain, they will win out in the games.
If, when someone lifts the curtain, they but live up to their names.
Let the Cooks here all cook cookies, and we'll have all we can eat.
Let the Hunters all go hunting. and there'll be no lack of meat.
Let the Tuckers, all try tucking all our babies into bed.
And mothers won't be tuckered out, or half so tired, it's said.
Let the Gaskills here all furnish gas to run the neighbors' cars.
Put the Panes into the windows that are broken out by jars.
Let the Nashes, in their Nash cars, take the folks all out to ride.
And Cox crow and wake us mornings, and 'twill fill us up with pride.
Let the Holmes, that are in Hopedale, furnish homes along their street;
If the Beal bring us some honey, from the Beal farm,'twill be sweet.
Let the people who have Barrows, help Roy Barrows wheel his down.
And we'll get our winter wood-piles from the Woods in Mendon town.
If all the Gardners went to work and hoed our garden stuff.
Raising leeks and good potatoes, till the Leeks have leeks enough.
If Mr. Nourse and Mrs. Nourse went out to nurse our sick;
And the Coles start fires in all our stoves, Oh! wouldn't it be sleek ?
We've Rogers here,and Williams, but not Roger Williams yet.
We've Thayers galore, and they've one Earl; nobility I bet;
We've Adams, but no Eden has been shown upon the screen.
And a Rock would always cheer us: Yes, a Rockwood here is seen.
Let the Millers all start grist mills, grinding corn, and wheat, and oats;
And the Taylors start some tailor shops to make us gowns and coats.
Let the Briggs take all the people on the ocean for a ride,
With the Moores to give us shelter, if we meet a raging tide.

Folks say there's good Blood in Mendon: Blood helps carry out our plans:
Pickard: Yes: Pick hard and find him; what we want is your best man.
Take your fish-rods and go fishing; we have Bates enough; it's prime.
There are Baggs to put the Burrs in: Oh! we'll have one jolly time.
Bellingham now has a Forestall, the children love to see.
A Dawley, all the children like; Hills, fine as fine can be.
We've Daniels, but no lion's den has yet been seen in town.
In Bellingham and Mendon both, are white folk now called Brown.
Mendon we're sure stands for its Wrights; they're citizens of course.
Our Bellingham had Knights, and Winns; Knights are a royal force.
We've Belchers here; they're not severe; but they do stir us some.
We've Turners who go straight ahead, and Amblers who still roam.
The Cunstable in Bellingham lets no one go Scott free;
And the Town Clerk would Sackett, if a fraud he chanced to see.
But it may be our Maybees may be called if we are ill.
And we've Crosses near the crossroad, who're not cross, but have a will.
We've Graves enough to hold John Brown, who died so long ago;
We've sang of how he died, but now he's living here we know.
We've Kayes here, that no child can use in any spelling class;
And we've Holbrooks; whole brooks we know are where fish love to pass.
In fact, if our neighbor towns could get all of their folks
To practice all their names declare, there'd surely be some jokes.
And sometime, when they felt like it, the two groups just for sport,
Would laugh and shout, and---maybe--sit down on a Davenport!

Courtesy Milford Daily News Nov. 24, 1928

In issue # 69 last June on the top front page we featured the Wheelock place formerly on Paine Street. As you look at the picture,on the first floor to the left, a very prominent Town Official came into this world in that very room and began his struggle to climb to the top of success in Bellingham. As if that wasn't enough he let us in on another phase of his life for it was here in that same room that he launched his married ship of state that is still going strong ! Worked out real good as time has proven. He was just as PROUD as proud could be to let us share in this event and we are delighted to let you know who he was---Selectman Wilfred Arcand. Thanks for letting us in on those special events. Surely there must be others who may have something to share with us from the "Old Days" and of which they are also proud? Please send them in before it is too late..

Four generations on each side !
Taken in 1946.

Babies, front row:
Raymond Everett Cook, Jr.
Mary Ann Bushnell

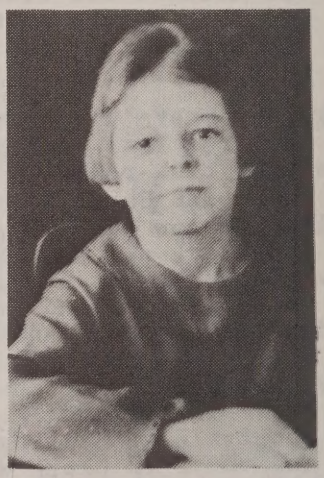
Second row:
Harland Everett Cook, Poet
Willie Lincoln Cook
Lumina Elizabeth Cole
Laura Luvia Cook

Back row:
Raymond Everett Cook
Grace Lumina Bushnell

We are grateful that Luvia donated this picture to us so that we could share in an unusual family who have resided in Bellingham for a long time. We are also proud of the poems that Harland composed for our enjoyment.
Thank you, Luvia.

From Hapeville, Georgia, Gil (Carrier) Robinson loaned us a picture of FIVE generations of Carrier's of South Bellingham **that was taken in 1947.**

Seated in front: Alfred Carrier, 71, Anselm, 96, Raymond, 24 standing, Romeo, 48. Baby, Andre, 2 months old.
Remember, these ages were for 1947. Raymond still resides in Bellingham.



Gilberte Carrier, 1923
South school

Peggy Beaudet, 1943
South school

If any of you readers have such notable records why not send in pictures for us to copy and return ?

Old time pictures.
Courtesy Gil (Carrier) Robinson.

"Using your eyes and head"---

A young man was trying to get a loan from a bank. After trying several, he found a banker who was willing to take a chance, under one condition. He told the young man that recently he had an eye removed and it was replaced with a glass eye. Now if he could tell which one was the glass eye, he would get the loan! The young man looked at both, made his decision and said he was pretty sure it was the"right"one. The banker was amazed that he was so quick and right with the answer so he asked how he knew. With a broad smile the young man answered, "I thought I saw a gleam of kindness in it."

Courtesy

of

Ruth Spieler.

From "Amos Adams Diary"****

June 20,1908 "I had a cord of wood off E. Webber $3.50." Man,would that tickle your stove today ? Good old days.

July 31, 1909 "I made the last payment on Graphophone." (Total $25.00)

Aug. 11, 1909 "There was about 4 hundred soldiers mounted passed through town this a.m."

Aug. 20, 1909 "There was a very hard thunder shower this eve of hail & rain & wind. It broke lots of windows."

July 3, 1911 102° in the shade at 12 M.

July 4, 1911 106° at 12:30 in the shade.

July 5, 1911 100° in the shade at 12 M.

Aug. 10, 1911 "I planted some peanuts in a pot this eve."

Mar. 27, 1913 "Very Windy---it blew over Thayers grocery team at the Depot!" (Now there's something after election day !)

May 20, 1913 "Geo. Thayers bungalow burned"

July 3, 1913 "I went to Milford this eve & brought home a new ice cream freezer."(Those were the days)

July 25, 1913 "I worked on the R.R. at Woonsocket laying steel in new freight yard."

July 4, 1915 "Went to the pictures of "Creation" in T. Hall this eve."

Dec. 15, 1917 "I went to a chicken supper and entertainment in T. Hall this eve to help the Halifax sufferers." (Munitions ship exploded in Halifax harbor killing 1600 people and causing enormous damage on December the 6th.)

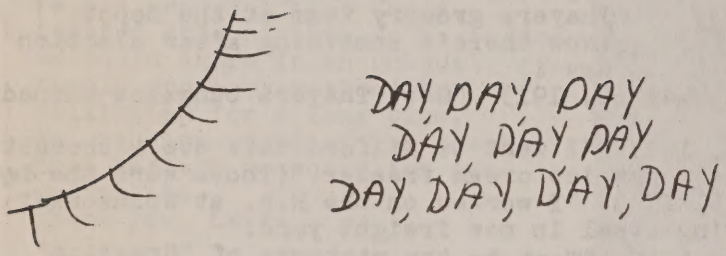
Thanks again to the Moore family, Catherine and Evelyn.

I suppose one really ought
To go to church
THANKSGIVING day
But I'm sure to think of dinner
'Stead of what the preachers say.

Once again old Father Time has swung his scythe and taken a long time avid reader of our "Crimpville Comments". Myrtle (Spencer) Van Note passed away on August 8, 1980 around noontime. Born in 1895 she nearly reached her 85th Birthday. She married Percy in 1917. She was the sister of Edward Leon Spencer, the first Bellingham boy to die in World War I. The original Legion Post was named after him. She contributed information to us and we shall miss her. Her father, James Spencer, was Chief of Police back in the teens. She resided in St. George, Maine. A close friend of hers had departed from this life earlier this year. Esther (Wentzel) Aldrich died Feb. 21, 1980, wife of Ernest Aldrich, deceased. She, too, had been an ardent contributing fan of the "Comments". Such is the cycle of life.

Bellingham Historical Commission
Town Hall
Bellingham, MA. 02019

THIRD CLASS MAIL



Here is a very clever and original form of expressionistic Art by our poetic picture author, Miss Kathy Kenney of Bellingham.
Could be that she was putting her thought into expressing the song, "Night and Day You are THE ONE."
Thank you, Kathy for this thought provoking picture poem. Keep them coming.

We have had the good fortune to get some more pictures of former school teachers through the kindness of Chilistine (Negrotti) Gleason of Florida who taught in South Bellingham some fifty years ago.

South Bellingham 1931
Mae Ryan, Grade 1
Gertrude Rhodes Grade 3
Chilistine Negrotti
Grades 4-5-6

This group of four, left to right:
Maurice Adams, Principal.

Chilistine Negrotti
Grade 7

Marguerite Dubois,
Grade 8

Mac McDonald
Grade 8

South Bellingham 1936
Thank you, Chilistine.
We could use more pictures of former teachers. Send them in.